

In Congress, May 14, 1777

In CONGRESS, MAY 14, 1777.

RESOLVED, I. THAT the Quarter-Master General of the Army be authorised and empowered to appoint one Commissary of Forage for the Army, and one for each of the military departments thereof, with such and so many Forage-Masters as he shall judge necessary.

II. That the duty of the Commissary of Forage shall be to purchase such quantities of forage, and store the same in such magazines as the Quarter-Master General or the Deputy Quarter-Master General of any department shall from time to time order and direct: That the Commissaries shall conform themselves in making purchases to such rules and regulations, as shall be prescribed to them by the Quarter-Master General or Deputy Quarter-Master General of the department to which they shall severally belong.

III. That all forage, purchased by any Commissary of Forage, and delivered into any magazine, shall be received by the Forage-Master thereunto appointed, who shall give his receipt therefor, specifying the fort, quantity and quality, as a voucher for the Commissary of Forage, to be by him produced to the Quarter-Master General or Deputy Quarter-Master General of the department, in support of his account.

IV. That the Commissaries of Forage shall make a monthly return to the Quarter-Master General or Deputy Quarter-Master General of the department, of all forage by them purchased, specifying to what Forage-Master and in which magazine the same was delivered, that the Forage-Master may stand charged therewith.

V. That no Forage Master, to whose care any magazine of forage shall be committed, shall issue any part thereof, unless by a written order from the Commander in Chief, the commander in Chief of the department, the Commanding Officer of the post where such

Library of Congress

magazine may be established, the Quarter-Master General or Deputy Quarter-Master General of the department or one of his Assistants, the Waggon-Master General or an other Waggon-Master; such orders to specify for whose use the forage is intended, and every such order to be filed by the Forage-Master, and a regular entry thereof made in a book to be by him kept for that purpose, as a voucher for the expenditure of the forage by him received.

VI. That the Forage-Masters shall make monthly returns to the Quarter-Master General and Deputy Quarter Master General of the departments they belong to, of the state of their magazines, specifying the quantity left in store at the first and every succeeding return, the quantity received since the last return, the expenditure since such return, and what remains on hand.

VII. AND WHEREAS it frequently happens that there is a necessity to detain hired carriages (the owners whereof were to find their own forage) far beyond the time for which the owners thereof agreed to serve, and who if their own forage is expended must have recourse to the public magazines--- **'TIS RESOLVED**, That such person so detained and become destitute of forage shall, upon the written order of any of the officers mentioned in the fifth Resolution, be supplied out of the public magazine; and that the Waggon-Master, before he signs the discharge for any such hired carriage, shall direct the Forage-Master to endorse thereon the quantity, fort and quality of the forage furnished such person, that the same may be deducted out of the wages due to the owner of such hired carriage, all which deduction shall by the Quarter-Master General or Deputy Quarter-Master General of the department be carried to the credit of the Forage-Master's account, who shall have furnished the forage.

VIII. That if the Commissary of Forage in any department should be ordered to procure such large quantities of forage as to render it impossible for him to do it without assistance, the Quarter-Master General or Deputy Quarter-Master General of the department shall direct one or more of his Assistants to aid the Commissary of Forage, pointing out the

Library of Congress

districts in which they are severally to purchase, that one may not enhance the price by bidding above another.

IX. WHEREAS, notwithstanding the orders that have been from time to time issued by General Officers of our army to prevent the loss and embezzlement of intrenching tools and other military stores, great waste hath been made; to prevent which for the future **IT IS RESOLVED**, That every Commissary of Stores, Store-keeper, or person to whose charge and care any Military Stores, of what kind soever, shall be committed, shall pass his receipt for and stand charged to be accountable for the same, and shall not issue any of them without taking a receipt therefor, the receiver promising to be accountable: And if any person having received any such stores shall lose or embezzle the same, the Commissary, Store-keeper, or person by whom they were delivered, shall charge him with the value thereof, and transmit a copy of such charges to the Pay-Master General or Deputy Pay-Master General of the department, who is to charge the same to the Pay-Master of the corps such person may belong to, unless it shall appear that such loss happened without any blameable negligence or omission. And if any person in the Continental service shall sell or otherwise dispose of any stores committed to his care, without a written order for so doing, issued by the Commander in Chief, or Commander in Chief of the department, or General Officer commanding at a separate post, he shall be punished for theft.

X. That the Waggon-Master General of the Army, or Waggon-Master in any of the departments thereof, shall receive from the Quarter-Master General or Deputy-Master of any department, all such horses, cattle and carriages, as the service may require, and that neither the Waggon-Master General or any other Waggon-Master shall on any account presume to purchase any horses, cattle or carriages, for the public service, without the express orders of the Commander in Chief, the Commander in Chief of the department, the Quarter-Master General or Deputy Quarter-Master General of a department; nor shall the Waggon-Master General or any other Waggon-Master hire any horses, cattle or

Library of Congress

carriages, unless by the authority aforesaid, or by that of an Assistant Deputy Quarter-Master General.

XI. That the Quarter-Master General appoint such Assistants, and make such arrangements for conducting the business of his department, as to him and to the Commander in Chief and Commander of a department shall seem most conducive to the public weal; that a copy of such arrangement, specifying the names of the Assistants, Commissaries or Forage, Waggon-Masters, Forage-Masters, and Clerks of the several departments, be transmitted to the Board of War. That every Assistant of the Quarter-Master General of the army, and every Assistant of the Deputy Quarter-Master General of the several departments thereof, shall make monthly returns of every article of what kind soever that may be in or at any of the forts, encampments, magazines or places in the district committed to his care, to the Deputy Quarter-Master General of the department, noting what is good, what is reparable, and what is unfit for further service in separate columns, from which returns the Deputy Quarter-Master General shall make one general return, in which shall be specified the total of all the articles in every district within his departments; one copy whereof shall be monthly transmitted to the Board of War, one to the Commander in Chief of the department, and one to the Quarter-Master General, from which return the Quarter-Master General shall make a general return, specifying what is in each department and every district thereof; one copy whereof shall be monthly transmitted to the Board of War, one to the Commander in Chief, and one to the Commander of each department.

XII. That every Assistant Quarter-Master, Commissary of Forage, Waggon-Master General, Forage-Master, and every other person employed in the Quarter-Master General's branch, who shall neglect or refuse to make such monthly returns, shall be dismissed the service by the Quarter-Master General or the Deputy Quarter-Master General of the department to which such delinquent belongs.

Library of Congress

XIII. And in order that all Deputy Quarter-Masters General and Assistants may make their returns in such a manner as to avoid that great confusion which has heretofore arisen from a want of method, the Quarter-Master General is to furnish his Deputies with a form, copies whereof they are to deliver to the Assistants, and to every person in the Quarter-Master General's branch who may be called upon for a return.

XIV. That the Quarter-Master General and the Deputy Quarter-Masters General in the several departments have full power and be authorised, with the consent of the Commander in Chief or the Commander of the department, to dismiss any person by them employed, who shall refuse or neglect any duty enjoined by the foregoing Resolutions or any other duty he may be charged with, and appoint others in the stead of such as may be dismissed. Resolve of Congress for May 14, 1777

XV. That the General and Commander in Chief of our armies, and the Commander of any department thereof, be allowed as much forage for their horses and those of their suite as the service may require.

XVI. That the Major General and Brigadier General, not having the command of a separate department, shall each be allowed forage for six horses for themselves, their Aids de Camp or Brigade Majors, and servants.

XVII. That the Commander in Chief and the Commander in any separate department be authorised to allow such forage, and for and during such times as they shall think proper, to the Quarter-Master General and his Deputies, to the Muster-Master General and his Deputies, the Chief Engineer and his Assistants, the Commissary General and his Deputies, the Director-General of the Hospital, his Subs and Surgeons-General, to the Adjutant-General and his Deputies, to the Colonels, Lieutenant Colonels, Majors, Adjutants, Quarter-Masters, and Surgeons of regiments, and to Provost-Marshals, or to such and so many of the beforementioned Officers and their Deputies as the service shall necessarily require: Provided always, That if any of the Officers abovementioned their

Library of Congress

Deputies or Assistants, should be allowed forage in consequence of any General Orders hereafter given, and should nevertheless not keep any or so many horses as they would be permitted to draw forage for, in such case no forage shall be issued for more horses than they really have, nor shall they at any time thereafter be allowed any forage as back allowance, or any money in lieu thereof.

XVIII. That a Deputy Quarter-Master General be appointed to each department, and one to each grand division of the Army: The rank of the former to be that of a Colonel, and the latter that of a Lieutenant-Colonel.

XIX. That the Quarter-Master General, with the approbation of the Commander in Chief or Commander of any separate department, appoint a competent number of Deputy Quarter-Masters General, a Waggon-Master General, and so many Waggon-Masters as the service from time to time may require, and make a return to the Board of War of the names of the persons so appointed.

XX. That Major General MIFFLIN be allowed for his services as Quarter-Master General One Hundred and Sixty-six Dollars per month, in addition to his pay as Major-General.---- That the pay of a Deputy Quarter-Master General of a grand division of the Army be Seventy-five Dollars per month.----That the pay of an Assistant Deputy Quarter-Master General be Forty Dollars per month, and that he have the rank of Captain.---- That the pay of a Waggon-Master General be Seventy-five Dollars per month.----That the pay of a Deputy Waggon-Master General be Fifty Dollars per month.----That the pay of a Barrack-Master General be Seventy-five Dollars per month.----That the pay of a Waggon-Master or Conductor of Waggons be Forty Dollars per month.----That the pay of a Forage-Master be Forty Dollars per month.

MAY 15.

Resolved, That every Officer, non-commissioned Officer or Soldier in the Army of the United States, who shall on any pretence whatever presume to take out of any stable,

Library of Congress

pasture park or carriage, any horse or horses belonging to the public, or any belonging to private persons actually employed in the public service, without having authority to do so by written order of the Commander in Chief, the Commander of any department, the Commanding Officer of any post where such horses may be, the Quarter-Master General or any of his Deputies or Assistants, or by the Commanding Officer of Artillery or any detachment thereof, who may give order for the taking of horses assigned to that corps only, such orders to specify the particular service for which such horse or horses are taken, shall be for such offence, as soon as may be, brought to a General Court-Martial; and if the fact is proved to the satisfaction of the Court, the Commander in Chief or other General Officer having given orders for such Court to convene, shall upon conviction immediately dismiss from the service such offender if an officer, unless from some circumstances the Commander in Chief or such General Officer shall see cause to pardon the offence; and if a non-commissioned Officer or Private, he shall order such corporal punishment to be inflicted as he may think proper, not exceeding one hundred lashes, unless from some circumstances the Commander in Chief or such General Officer shall see cause to pardon the offence.

MAY 29.

Resolved, That no persons, horses or carriages, going to the army with provisions, and returning from thence, be pressed upon any pretence whatever.

AUGUST 1.

Resolved, That the Quarter-Master General be directed to appoint a Deputy Quarter-Master General in the State of Georgia; and that he be directed to use his utmost endeavours to procure tents and other essential articles for the use of the troops there without delay.

FEBRUARY 6, 1778.

Library of Congress

Resolved, That the Quarter-Master General, and his Deputies, be respectively directed to provide the Auditors in each army with a convenient house near Head-Quarters, and that no other officers be quartered therein.

That, for the preservation of the public papers, the Quarter-Master General or his Deputies shall provide for the Auditors in each army a good covered waggon with horses, under their direction; and the said Auditors shall also be provided with suitable guards for the same purpose.

MARCH 2.

Resolved, That there be one Quarter-Master General, and two Assistant Quarter-Masters General.

That these three be allowed, for their trouble and expence, *One per Cent*, upon the monies issued in the department, to be divided as they shall agree, and including an addition to the pay of the Waggon-Master General and his Deputy.

That Major General Green be appointed Quarter-Master General.

That John Cox and Charles Petit, Esquires, be appointed Assistant Quarter-Masters General.

That the Forage-Masters, Waggon-Masters, and other officers in the department, be in the appointment of the Quarter-Master General, who is to be responsible for their conduct.

Resolved, That Major General Green retain his rank of Major General in the army:

Extract from the Minutes, **CHARLES THOMSON**, Secretary.

FISH-KILL: Printed by **SAMUEL LOUDON**.